

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached drawing(s) include changes to FIGS. 2A and 2B to designate same by the legend - -PRIOR ART- -.

Replacement Drawings of FIGS. 2A and 2B are submitted herewith.

Approval of these changes and entry of the corrected/replacement Drawings are respectfully requested.

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, the abstract, title and claim 1 are amended. No new matter is presented and, accordingly, approval and entry of the foregoing amendments are respectfully requested.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-10 are pending. Claims 1-5 are under consideration.

OBJECTIONS

The drawings are objected to. FIGS 2A and 2B are designated as "PRIOR ART".

The abstract is objected to due to the use of the legal term "comprise." The abstract is amended herewith to replace the term "comprises" with "includes."

The title of the invention is objected to. The title is amended as suggested by the Examiner.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by the Applicants' admitted prior art (AAPA).

Amended independent claim 1 patentably distinguishes over AAPA at least by reciting "a first data path provided to connect the decoder to the video input memory, when the coded stream of the first format is transcoded to generate a second stream formed in a second format" and "a second data path provided to connect the decoder to the audio input memory, when the transcoding is performed." The claim amendments are fully supported by the originally filed specification, for example, FIG. 4 and the corresponding description in the specification.

In contrast to AAPA, where video data was supplied to the encoder from the video output interface, according to claim 1, video data output from the decoder are stored into the video input memory via the first data path so as to be delivered to the encoder. Similarly, in contrast to the prior art, where audio data was supplied to the encoder through the audio output interface, as recited in claim 1, the audio data output from the decoder are stored into the audio input memory via the second data path so as to be delivered to the encoder. Therefore, it is possible to eliminate underflow and overflow of the video output memory and the audio output memory, which degrades, for example, the frame synchronization.

Claims 2-5 depending from claim 1 are also patentable at least by inheriting patentable features from independent claim 1.

NEW CLAIM 11

New claim 11 is directed to a data encoding/decoding apparatus having, a decoder, an encoder, a video output memory, an audio output memory, a video input memory and an audion input memory. Claim 11 is fully supported by the originally filed specification, for example, FIG. 4 and the corresponding description in the specification. Claim 11 is patentable at least by reciting "a video input memory storing the video data received **directly** from the decoder or from a source external to the encoding/decoding apparatus" and "an audio input memory storing the audio data received **directly** from the decoder or from a source external to the encoding/decoding apparatus" (emphasis ours).

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

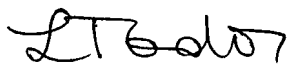
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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